

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 1-4, 6-11, 14-24, and 26-28 have been amended. Claims 30-44 have been added. Claim 25 has been cancelled. Support for all amendments and new claims may be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claim 25 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to recite process steps. Claim 25 has been cancelled.

Claims 1-11, 18-19, 25-26, and 28-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,952,645 ("Mulhaupt"). Claims 12-17, 20-24, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Mulhaupt, alone, or in combination with EP 1026218A1 ("Welke"). The amendments to the claims are believed to place them in condition for allowance. Specifically, none of the cited references teach or suggest a heat-curable epoxy resin composition comprising an epoxy resin and an oligomeric and/or polymeric impact modifier as described in the pending claims, and certainly not a prepolymer comprising a reaction product of an epoxy resin and an oligomeric and/or polymeric impact modifier in the specific concentrations described in the pending claims.

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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